



PRESS RELEASE

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MAYOR COMMUTES VIA BICYCLE ON BIKE TO WORK DAY, ENCOURAGES REGULAR BICYCLE COMMUTING

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard participated in National Bike to Work Day by commuting to Downtown via bicycle today and convening at Monument Circle along with several hundred other commuting cyclists. Group commute rides began at 6:30 a.m. from 11 locations around the greater Indianapolis metropolitan area and met at the southwest corner of Monument Circle.

“Indianapolis is making great strides to become more bicycle-friendly and pedestrian-friendly, and a more connected city overall,” said Mayor Ballard. “Having a bicycle-friendly city is vital to creating a community that is healthier, cleaner and well-connected – for both our current and future citizens. A city linked by trails, sidewalks and bikes lanes for people of all ages to travel where they need to go is a major component of my vision for making Indianapolis one of the most sustainable cities in the Midwest.”

Bicycle Indiana, InShape Indiana, INDOT, IndyGo and SustainIndy partnered with the City of Indianapolis for the annual Bike to Work Day event on Monument Circle. Speakers recognized those participating in Bike to Work Day and emphasized the environmental, economic and healthy lifestyle benefits of regular bicycle commuting. Alternative commutes include a bike and bus option with IndyGo, as all IndyGo buses are equipped with bike racks. For more information, visit www.bicycleindiana.org.

“The hundreds of bicyclists on the road today was an excellent representation of how cycling as a mode of transportation can easily share the road with Indianapolis’ motor vehicle traffic,” said Bicycle Indiana Executive Director Nancy Tibbitt.

Indianapolis plans to complete 35 miles of bike lanes by the end of this year, and nearly 60 miles by the end of 2011. Other developments Mayor Ballard highlighted today:

- The City installed 54 bike racks around the Downtown area in October;

- Construction of the Allisonville Road bike lanes are complete;
- Late last year the City passed its first-ever bicycle ordinance protecting bike lanes for bicyclists only and requiring a three-foot passing distance for vehicles near bicyclists;
- The League of American Bicyclists recently designated Indianapolis a bronze-level bicycle friendly community for the first time;
- Indianapolis is ranked among America's top 50 bicycle-friendly cities by Bicycling Magazine for the first time ever;
- Construction on the Illinois Street and Capitol Avenue bike lanes will begin this fall.

"All of these developments demonstrate not only that we have a plan for a sustainable and connected city, but that we are taking action and making an impact," said Mayor Ballard.

Pedal and Park hosted bicycle parking on the southwest quadrant of Monument Circle from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. during Bike to Work Day. The event featured giveaways, information booths, complimentary breakfast and a corporate challenge sponsored by Bicycle Garage Indy. Exhibitors included Central Indiana Commuter Services, Health by Design, IndyGo, Hoosier Environmental Council, and Noodles & Company.

"The State of Indiana's major health risks are related to obesity and poor physical exercise," said State Health Commissioner Gregory Larkin. "Events like Bike to Work Day demonstrate how much fun exercise can be. Marion County is surely leading the way to creating opportunity."

The City of Indianapolis plans to construct 240 miles of bike lanes throughout Marion County over the next decade. The Mayor's Bike Ride at 10 a.m. June 5 will showcase the newly completed Allisonville Road bike lanes. For more information on the bike ride, which is free and open to the public, visit www.sustainindy.org.

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